THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) The final order of the Hon'ble High Court is awaited.

Foodgrains perished in godowns

†4677. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains perished in godowns in the country alongwith reasons therefor; and

(b) the view of Government with regard to the utilization of these foodgrains for the cause of helpless people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) A total quantity of about 3.54 lakh MT of foodgrains, of previous crop years, lying mostly with State Agencies were declared as damaged during the year 2004-05. These foodgrains were damaged due to various factors viz. prolonged storage under CAP (open) conditions and natural calamities like rains, floods, cyclones etc.

(b) These stocks, comprising a negligible percentage of the total foodgrains procured for the Central Pool, are unfit for human consumption and are being disposed of through tender/auction to bonafide consumers as per established procedure.

Exporting old stock of wheat and rice

†4678. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to export old wheat and rice to foreign countries;

(b) if so, how old is this foodgrain and the quantity thereof with FCI till March, 2005;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the abovesaid wheat has been exported during the earlier years, if so, the details of export of wheat with quantity thereof mentioning the export price during last three years; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the total loss incurred as a result of such export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Government has not decided to export old wheat and rice to foreign countries from the Central Pool.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir. Issue of fresh allocation of wheat and rice for export purposes from Central Pool has been stopped with effect from 11.08.2003.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Foodgrain Export Policy

4679. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the new foodgrain export policy;

(b) whether the States have been consulted while framing this policy; and

(c) the steps taken to boost export of foodgrains subject to domestic demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Anew foodgrain export policy is at an advanced stage of consideration of the Government.

Availability of wheat at ration shops

4680. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports that goods especially wheat is not reaching properly to Governmental ration shops, which adversely affects the life of general people at large; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps taken by Government to maintain timely delivery; and

(c) the details of Governmental ration shops operating in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System